Commonwealth of Virginia's Communications Interoperability

The Move to
Statewide Common Language Protocols
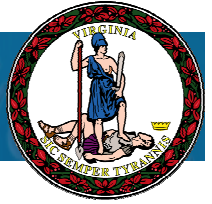
2006
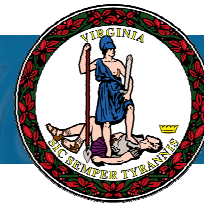Virginia
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Panelists

- Jim Junkins, Virginia APCO (Common Language Initiative Action Team Lead and FY 2007 SIEC Member)

- Bill Bullock, VAGEMSA (FY 2006 SIEC Vice Chair and FY 2007 SIEC Member)

- Col. H.C. Davis, Virginia State Police (FY 2007 SIEC Member)
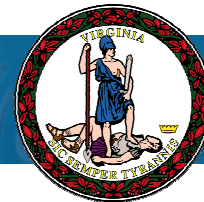
- Bob Nibarger, Virginia Beach

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Agenda

- Background

- FY 2006 Activities

- Introducing Virginia's Common Language Protocol

- FY 2007 Activities

- Questions and Answers

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Background

- National Incident Management System (NIMS) released by federal government including a requirement to use plain language during mutual aid events

- *November 2005* – Governor Warner signs Executive Order 102 to mandate localities and state agencies to follow NIMS, DHS requirements, and the National Response Plan

- *February 2006* – NIMS Integration Center distributes a bulletin requiring the use of plain English for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events

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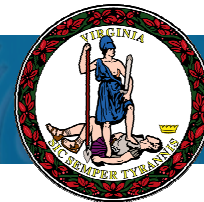Conference

FY 2006 Activities
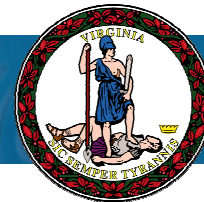
Chartered an Initiative Action Team (IAT) to address Initiative 3 of the FY 2006 Strategic Plan:

"As defined by NIMS, identify and adopt common language protocols in the Commonwealth for day to day operations and major emergency situations."

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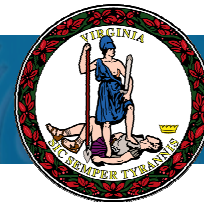Conference

FY 2006 Activities

Why day to day AND mutual aid?

- IAT was committed to eliminating the "loophole" in NIMS

- Responders react with how they are trained in stressful situations

- We will only be successful if we live and practice common language day to day

- BUT, there are a few situations where coded language may be necessary for responder safety….

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FY 2006 Activities

Methodology

- Two questionnaires sent to Virginia's public safety agencies

- One facilitated face-to-face meeting to determine recommendations

- On-going discussion via conference calls to continue to define the terms and recommendations

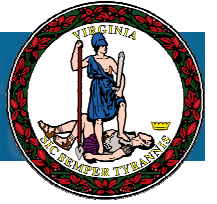- Endorsements sought and received from Fire Chiefs and Chiefs of Police

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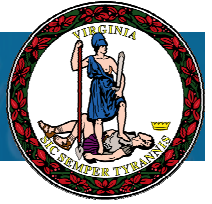
- Results
  - One Phonetic Alphabet
  - 4 Situations that Require Coded Language
    - Responder in Immediate Danger
    - Responder Needs Assistance/Backup
    - Responder is Taking or Recommends Taking Subject Into Custody
    - Responder or Dispatcher is Going to Convey Sensitive or Confidential Information
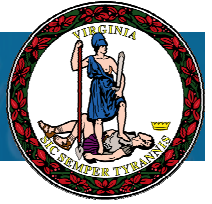 - All other transmissions in Plain English

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QUESTIONS?

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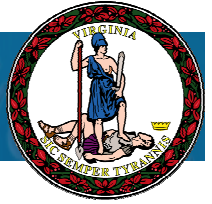Conference

FY 2007 Activities

The State Interoperability Executive Committee will:

- Publicize the Roll-Out of the Protocol

- Obtain Endorsements

- Begin Training on Common Language

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FY 2007 Activities

- Virginia State Police
  - Currently
    - Over 100 10 codes and 20 Signals
    - Units often interact with other agencies
    - Other agencies have VSP radios and interact with VSP dispatchers.
  - Challenges
    - Old habits die hard
    - Keeping language consistent and professional
    - Changes to existing CAD and Mobile software

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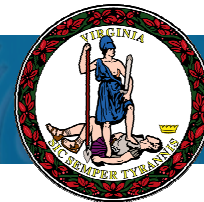Conference

FY 2007 Activities
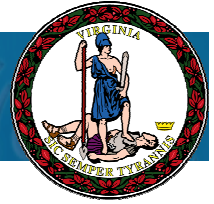
- Virginia State Police
  - Efforts – Committee Formation
    - CAD Coordinator
    - CAD Technicians
    - Dispatchers
    - Sworn Employees
  - Roll Out Plans
    - Department Information Bulletin
    - Supervisor's In Service School
    - Dispatcher's In Service School
    - CAD Changes

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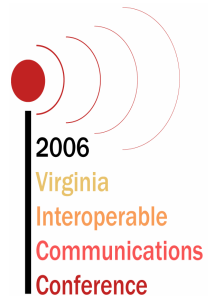Conference

FY 2007 Activities

- APCO
  - Disseminating the intent/meaning as well as the simple text. We need to get it right from start.
  - Working to forward the VA effort to APCO International for review and consideration of endorsement.
  - Roll Out – Planning Training Session at the upcoming VA APCO/VENA conference in November.
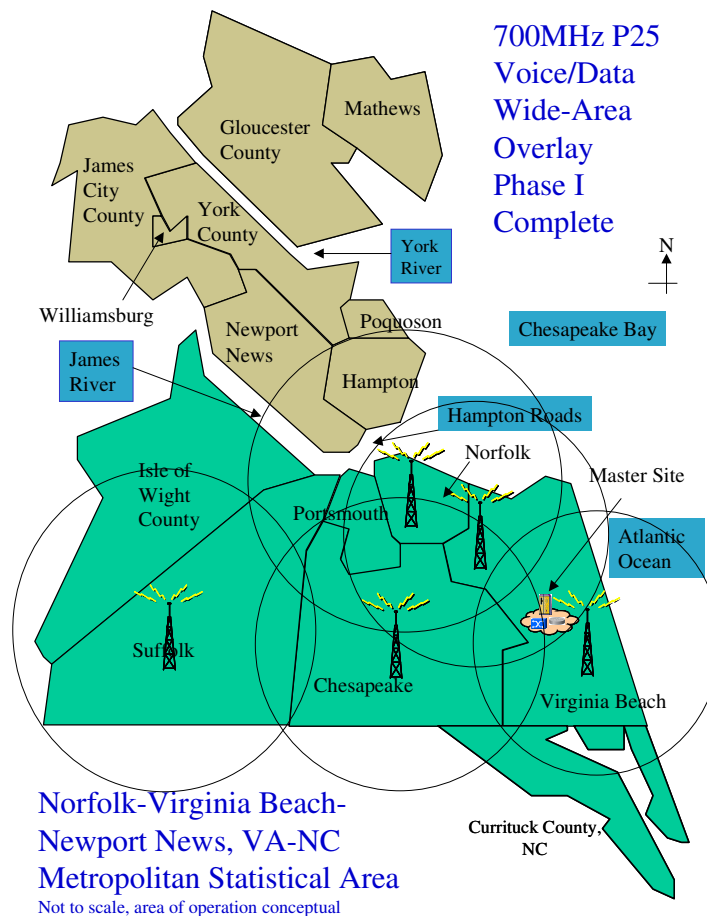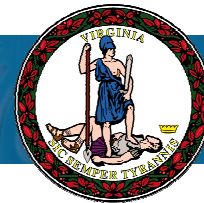
FY 2007 Activities
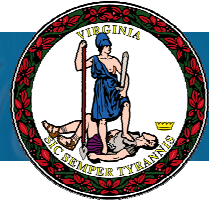
- Virginia Beach Police Department
  - MDT language transitions to track service time
  - Present changes during November or December to muster training program
    - Available to each command
    - Presented at roll calls throughout the month by supervisory members
    - All members are required to attend roll call training each month
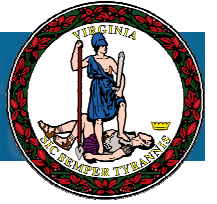 - Full transition by January 1, 2007

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700MHz P25
Voice/Data
Wide-Area
Overlay
Phase I
Complete

Mathews

Gloucester County

James City County

York County

York River

Williamsburg

Newport News

Poquoson

James River

Hampton

N

Chesapeake Bay

Hampton Roads

Norfolk

Master Site

Isle of Wight County

Portsmouth

Atlantic Ocean

Suffolk

Chesapeake

Virginia Beach

Norfolk-Virginia Beach-
Newport News, VA-NC
Metropolitan Statistical Area
Not to scale, area of operation conceptual

Currituck County, NC

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ORION Grant Partners

- Norfolk
- Portsmouth
- New Port News
- Chesapeake
- Suffolk
- Virginia Beach

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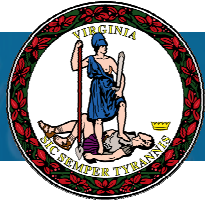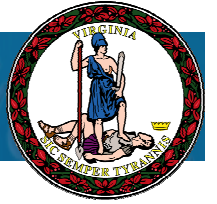Interoperable
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ORION Initiatives
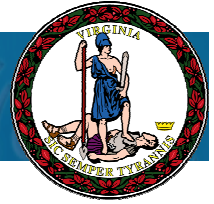
- Active Common Language Advisory Committee

- Reviewing naming conventions of equipment

- Reviewing unit identifiers

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Virginia's Common Language Protocol

QUESTIONS?

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Thank you

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Bob Nibarger   **BNibarge@vbgov.com**

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